IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 21, 35, 36, 55, 63, 82, 94, 98, 99 and 111 as follows (note: another version of the rewritten claims, marked up to show all the changes relative to the previous version, accompanies this response):

B1/sub C1

21. (Amended) The method according to claim 20, wherein said radiant energy marker comprises a radio frequency identification tag.

B2/sub C1

35. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said property identification marker consists of a biodegradable ink.

36. (Amended) The method according to claim 35, wherein said biodegradable ink consists of a soy-based ink.

B3/sub C1

55. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said property identification marker comprises an edible marker.

B4/sub C1

63. (Twice Amended) A material identification system, comprising:

a plurality of property identification markers; and

a marker dispenser capable of periodically dispensing said plurality of property identification markers into a flowing bulk flowable material;

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wherein said plurality of property identification markers carry information identifying a physical characteristic of a bulk flowable material in which said property identification marker is placed.

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~~82.~~ (Amended) The method of claim ~~81~~, wherein said step of automatically routing directs genetically modified bulk flowable material to a storage location collecting genetically modified bulk flowable material so as to segregate said genetically modified bulk flowable material from bulk flowable material that has not been genetically modified.

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~~94.~~ (Amended) The material identification system according to claim ~~93~~, wherein said plurality of radiant energy markers comprises a plurality of radio frequency identification tags.

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~~98.~~ (Amended) The material identification system according to claim ~~63~~, wherein said plurality of property identification markers consists of a plurality of ink doses.

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~~99.~~ (Amended) The material identification system according to claim ~~63~~, wherein said plurality of property identification markers consists of a plurality of biodegradable ink doses.

111. (Amended) A material identification system, comprising:

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means for indicating a location-independent property of a bulk flowable material; and

means for dispensing said means for indicating a location-independent property into a flowing bulk flowable material.

Please add the following new claims:

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114. (New) A method of indicating whether a bulk flowable material contains a genetically modified organism, comprising the steps of:

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causing a harvested bulk flowable material to flow; and

dispensing a plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers into the flowing bulk flowable material to indicate whether the harvested bulk flowable material contains a genetically modified organism.

115. (New) The method of claim 114, further comprising the step of harvesting an unharvested bulk flowable material.

116. (New) The method of claim 114, further comprising the steps of:

selecting a field containing a quantity of an unharvested bulk flowable material, at least a portion of the unharvested bulk flowable material being a genetically modified organism; and

harvesting the unharvested bulk flowable material from the selected field.

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117. (New) The method of claim 114, wherein the plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers are human-readable property identification markers.

118. (New) The method of claim 114, wherein the plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers are machine-readable property identification markers.

119. (New) The method of claim 114, wherein the plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers are radio frequency identification markers.

120. (New) The method of claim 115, wherein said dispensing step is performed at generally the same time as said harvesting step.

121. (New) The method of claim 116, wherein said dispensing step is performed at a location removed from the field selected in said selecting step.

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122. (New) The method of claim 116, wherein said dispensing step is performed at the location of the field selected in said selecting step.

123. (New) The method of claim 114, wherein the presence of the plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers in the harvested bulk flowable material indicates, without the need for further testing of the harvested bulk flowable material, the presence of a genetically modified organism.

124. (New) The method of claim 114, wherein the plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers also indicate an additional characteristic of the harvested bulk flowable material.

125. (New) A method of identifying a genetic characteristic of a bulk flowable material, comprising the steps of:

causing a harvested bulk flowable material to flow; and

dispensing a plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers into the flowing harvested bulk flowable material to indicate a genetic characteristic of the harvested bulk flowable material that cannot be visually perceived by an unaided human eye.

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126. (New) The method of claim 125, further comprising the step of harvesting an unharvested bulk flowable material, at least a portion of the unharvested bulk flowable material having a genetic characteristic that cannot be visually perceived by an unaided human eye.

127. (New) The method of claim 125, further comprising the steps of:

selecting a field containing a quantity of an unharvested bulk flowable material, at least a portion of the unharvested bulk flowable material having a genetic characteristic that cannot be visually perceived by an unaided human eye; and

harvesting the unharvested bulk flowable material from the selected field.

128. (New) The method of claim 125, wherein, in said dispensing step, said plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers are dispensed to indicate whether a portion of the harvested bulk flowable material comprises a genetically modified organism.

Cont B9

129. (New) The method of claim 125, wherein the presence of the plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers in the harvested bulk flowable material indicates, without the need for further testing of the harvested bulk flowable material, whether the harvested bulk flowable material comprises a genetically modified organism.

130. (New) The method of claim 125, wherein the plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers also indicate an additional characteristic of the harvested bulk flowable material.

131. (New) The method of claim 125, wherein the plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers also indicate an environmental treatment that has been performed on an area from which the harvested bulk flowable material was harvested.

132. (New) The method of claim 131, wherein the indicated environmental treatment comprises an application of a pesticide.

133. (New) The method of claim 131, wherein the indicated environmental treatment comprises an application of a herbicide.

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134. (New) The method of claim 131, wherein the indicated environmental treatment comprises an application of a fertilizer.

135. (New) A method of associating an environmental treatment with a bulk flowable material, comprising the steps of:

causing a harvested bulk flowable material to flow; and

dispensing a plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers into the flowing harvested bulk flowable material to indicate that a given environmental treatment has been performed on an area from which the bulk flowable material had been collected, the performance of the environmental treatment being not capable of visual detection by viewing the harvested bulk flowable material with an unaided human eye.

136. (New) The method of claim 135, wherein the indicated environmental treatment comprises an application of a pesticide.

137. (New) The method of claim 135, wherein the indicated environmental treatment comprises an application of a herbicide.

138. (New) The method of claim 135, wherein the indicated environmental treatment comprises a soil amendment.

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139. (New) The method of claim 138, wherein the soil amendment comprises an application of a fertilizer.

140. (New) The method of claim 135, wherein the plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers also indicate an additional characteristic of the harvested bulk flowable material.

141. (New) The method of claim 135, wherein the plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers also indicate a genetic characteristic of the harvested bulk flowable material.

142. (New) The method of claim 135, wherein the presence of the plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers in the harvested bulk flowable material reduces the need for further testing of the harvested bulk flowable material to determine whether the harvested bulk flowable material has undergone an environmental treatment.

143. (New) The method of claim 135, wherein the plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers are machine-readable property identification markers.

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144. (New) The method of claim 135, wherein the plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers are radio frequency identification markers.

145. (New) A method of identifying a characteristic of a bulk flowable material in a manner that will travel with the bulk flowable material and that will reduce the need for subsequent testing of the bulk flowable material for presence of the characteristic, comprising the steps of:

determining whether at least a portion of a chosen lot of a harvested bulk flowable material possesses a given characteristic;

causing the chosen lot of harvested bulk flowable material to flow; and

periodically dispensing a property identification marker into the flowing bulk flowable material;

wherein presence of the property identification marker in the harvested bulk flowable material reduces the need for further testing of the chosen lot of harvested bulk flowable material to determine whether the given characteristic is present in the chosen lot.

146 (New) The method of claim 145, further comprising the steps of:

selecting a field containing a quantity of an unharvested bulk flowable material; and

harvesting the unharvested bulk flowable material from the selected field;

wherein, in said dispensing step, the property identification marker is dispensed into the flowing bulk flowable material without regard to the specific harvest point within the boundaries of the selected field from which the bulk flowable material has been harvested.

147. (New) The method of claim 145, wherein the property identification marker comprises human-readable information.

148. (New) The method of claim 145, wherein the property identification marker comprises machine-readable information.

149. (New) The method of claim 145, wherein the property identification marker comprises a radio frequency identification marker.

150. (New) The method of claim 145, wherein the determined given characteristic comprises a genetic characteristic.

151. (New) The method of claim 145, wherein the determined given characteristic comprises an exposure of the area from which the harvested bulk flowable material was harvested to an environmental treatment, the environment treatment having been performed prior to harvesting of the harvested bulk flowable material.

152. (New) The method of claim 145, wherein the property identification marker also indicates an additional characteristic of the harvested bulk flowable material.

153. (New) The method of claim 152, wherein the indicated additional characteristic of the harvested bulk flowable material comprises ownership information related to the harvested bulk flowable material.

154. (New) The method of claim 152, wherein the indicated additional characteristic of the harvested bulk flowable material comprises origin information related to the harvested bulk flowable material.

155. (New) A method of harvesting and identifying a characteristic of a bulk flowable material containing a genetically modified organism, comprising the steps of:

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selecting a field containing a quantity of a bulk flowable material, at least a portion of the bulk flowable material being a genetically modified organism;

harvesting the bulk flowable material from the selected field;

causing the harvested bulk flowable material to flow; and

dispensing, without regard to location within the selected field, a plurality of readily-identifiable property identification markers into the flowing bulk flowable material to indicate that the harvested bulk flowable material contains a genetically modified organism.